

REMARKS

The Office Action dated September 9, 2008 has been received and carefully noted.

The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

The Office Action of September 9, 2008 presented a restriction requirement, requiring election between one of the following three inventions:

Invention I, recited in claims 1, 4-7, and 9-10, drawn to a layered Fe-base alloy and the production thereof;

Invention II, recited in claims 2, 8, 11, 13-14, and 16-19, drawn to a layered, carbonized element Fe-base alloy and the production thereof; and

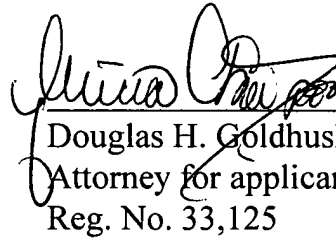
Invention III, recited in claims 3, 12, 15, and 20-25, drawn to a layered, concentration-varied Fe-base alloy and the production thereof.

Applicants respectfully elect to prosecute the subject matter of Invention II, recited in claims 2, 8, 11, 13-14, and 16-19, drawn to a layered, carbonized element Fe-base alloy and the production thereof. Applicants therefore respectfully request timely consideration on the merits.

Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application(s) on the non-elected claims at any point prior to the termination of the proceedings in the subject application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

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